

Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)
Thursday, September 8, 2022
5:00 PM – 6:45 PM
Held Via Zoom

Present: Flor Amaya, Maia Betts, Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Lynne Courtney, Shondell Davis, Richard Giordano, Jamie Goldfarb, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Sandy Novack, Alex Oliver-Dávila, Triniese Polk, Jane Powers, Richard Rouse, Anna Spier, Samantha Taylor, Robert Torres, Fred Wang

Absent: Alexandra Chery Dorrelus, Lauren Gabovitch, Kira Khazatsky, Angie Liou, Marsha Maurer, Kelina (Kelly) Orlando, LaShonda Walker-Robinson

Guests: Annie Rushman, Health Resources in Action (HRiA). One member of the public was in attendance.

Welcome and Introductions

Nancy Kasen, Vice President, Community Benefits and Community Relations welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining. Nancy then reviewed the agenda.

Nancy welcomed Samantha Taylor, the Executive Director of Bowdoin Street Health Center and Lynne Courtney, Program Administrator for Workforce Development at BILH to the CBAC. Nancy shared that James Morton and Joanne Pokaski were stepping down from the CBAC and thanked them for their service.

The minutes from the March 22, 2022 and May 24, 2022 CBAC meetings were reviewed and accepted.

Public Comment

There were no oral or written public comments received or shared during this meeting.

Community-based Health Initiative Updates

Robert Torres, Director of Community Benefits, provided updates on the Community-based Health Initiative (CHI).

Funding Award Update

Robert reminded the CBAC that in 2019 they voted to allocate 40% of CHI funds to Housing Affordability, 30% of funds to Jobs & Financial Security, and 15% each of the funds to Behavioral Health and the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI). He shared the approximate percentages of allocated funds that had been awarded as of August 2022 for each of the four priority areas: Housing Affordability (42%), Jobs and Financial Security (45%), Behavioral Health (73%), and HNI (57%). He stated that approximately \$7 million still needs to be awarded and that the Allocation Committee would aim to align the remaining funds to be awarded with the allocation percentages approved by the CBAC.

City of Chelsea Housing Affordability Request For Proposal (RFP)

Robert shared that on September 7th BIDMC released a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to address housing affordability in the city of Chelsea. He explained that one grantee will be awarded \$705,000 by the Allocation Committee and that the selected organization must be located in the city of

Chelsea and serve Chelsea residents. He said that the strategic focus areas for this RFP align with the priorities selected by the CBAC including homelessness, home ownership and rental assistance. The deadline for proposals is October 14th and proposals will be reviewed by the Allocation Committee.

Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI) Updates

Robert provided an update on the first two selected HNI Collectives representing Bowdoin/Geneva and Fenway/Kenmore (Cohort 1). As part of the evaluation of the planning phase, Cohort 1 HNI Collectives shared that the planning phase allowed them to build and create new partnerships, increased collaboration (vs. competition), and allowed for dedicated facilitators to hear and incorporate all perspectives. HNI Collectives appreciated that BIDMC, through the HNI funding mechanism, provided an opportunity to fund and advocate for their neighborhoods and community visions. HNI Cohort 1 Collectives also shared opportunities for improvement, including that forming a Collective took more effort than expected and that neighborhoods had varying levels of resources they could commit to Collective formation. In response, Robert shared that with the subsequent HNI cohort (Cohort 2), BIDMC encouraged Collectives to use planning funds for outside facilitation and included tasks to support collective development in the RFP. BIDMC also learned that the Cohort 1 HNI planning phase took longer than expected and that more focus was put on identifying community priorities than on project development. In response, in the second HNI RFP, BIDMC extended the planning phase and is encouraging new collectives to use secondary data to identify community priorities.

Robert then provided an update on the second set of HNI Collectives, Chinatown and the city of Chelsea (Cohort 2). He shared that Cohort 2 HNI Collectives were wrapping up the project planning phase; during this process Collectives are required to conduct an inclusive, community driven/led process by holding at least three community engagement opportunities that are open to the public and advertised broadly to residents. Based on community engagement findings and secondary data, the Cohort 2 Collectives will develop a project to implement and submit to BIDMC's Allocation Committee for review and approval.

One CBAC member asked if Collectives were explicitly required to engage the youth voice, and if not, whether this could be included in future RFPs. Nancy replied that this could be incorporated into future HNI RFPs. Another member asked if BIDMC is achieving its goals through the HNI. Anna, Manager of Community Benefits shared that BIDMC is working with an independent evaluator to learn if the HNI is a successful funding mechanism and that the intention is to share findings broadly.

FY23 Moving to Impact

Nancy Kasen shared that BIDMC would soon begin implementing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Implementation Strategy. She shared that over the past few years BILH Community Benefits had been working to align strategies across the system with the aim of increasing impact and improving community health. To support these efforts BILH, in partnership with Mass General Brigham, developed a system-wide database to streamline data collection from internal and external stakeholders. In addition, Nancy shared that over time, the system would begin moving towards multi-year grants, with a focus on maximizing impact in the community. One member was concerned about whether small organizations would have the capacity to use this database. Jamie Goldfarb, Program Administrator of Community Benefits shared that the database would likely minimize grantee effort compared to previous data collection tools and that she had received positive feedback from stakeholders who had already used this database. Nancy also shared that BILH would provide training for organizations to use the database.

FY22 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Strategy Wrap-Up

Jamie shared that the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and FY23-25 Implementation Strategy have been completed and that they would be posted on the BIDMC Community Benefits webpage after approval by BIDMC's Board of Trustees. Jamie thanked the CBAC for their support and involvement during the CHNA process.

Jamie then highlighted key strengths from the CHNA process, including early and intentional community engagement planning, meaningfully engaging focus cohorts, partnering with community champions, and identifying opportunities to meet historically underrepresented voices where they were, such as existing support group meetings. She then described opportunities for future improvement, such as using both virtual and in-person engagement methods, building on and creating partnerships to continuously engage the community, and continuing to optimize coordination with the Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative and the North Suffolk iCHNA.

CBAC members then shared their reflections on the process. Several members shared they felt a real invitation from BIDMC to provide guidance on what community outreach should look like. Additionally, they shared that BIDMC listened and responded to the information that was provided. Robert shared that the community connections CBAC members created for BIDMC were instrumental in the success of the CHNA.

CBAC Member Stories

Anna introduced a new meeting segment, CBAC Member Stories. She explained that this was an opportunity to get to know each other since members have not been gathering in person for CBAC meetings. Jane Powers, Chief of Staff at Fenway Health; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, Executive Director of Sociedad Latina; and Fred Wang, BIDMC Trustee Advisor Emeritus were the first three CBAC members to share. Each member shared where they grew up, their career backgrounds, their interests and hobbies, and what led them to join the CBAC.

Anna stated that this segment would be a standing agenda item until all CBAC members have had an opportunity to share.

Next Steps

Anna mentioned that the CBAC Charter would be updated and shared prior to the next meeting. She thanked the attendees for joining and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting was December 6, 2022.